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CONSTITUTION

OF THE AMERICAN ART-UNION.

ADOPTED DECEMBER 20TH, 1847.

ART. I.—Every subscriber of five dollars, or more, per annum, shall be a member of the American Art-Union, and after the payment thereof, shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership for the residue of the calendar year. There shall be a stated meeting of the members on the Friday evening next before Christmas, at such place and hour as the Committee of Management shall direct, to be called the annual meeting of the Association, when the distribution of Works of Art, and the election of the members of the Committee of Management, shall take place.

ART. II.—The business of the Institution is managed by a Committee of Management of twenty-one members, one-third of whom are chosen by the members at the annual meeting. The Committee of Management shall meet on the Monday evening next after the annual meeting, at which time the newly elected members shall take their seats, and the Committee shall then choose from their number the officers of the Association, viz.: the President, the Corresponding Secretary, the Recording Secretary, and the Treasurer, who shall hold their offices for one year, unless sooner removed, and till others are elected to fill their places. The Committee of Management shall from time to time make and alter the Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations of the Institution, adopt and execute such measures as they may deem proper to promote the objects of

the Institution, and direct the appointment of such committees, honorary secretaries, and agents, as they may judge expedient, with such powers, duties, and compensation as may be prescribed to them; and at the annual meeting shall make a report of their proceedings during the year, which they shall publish with the proceedings of the annual meeting, for the information of the members.

ART. III.—The Committee of Management shall also appoint a Standing Executive Committee of five members, (besides the President, who shall be ex-officio a member thereof), whose duty it shall be to exercise constant supervision and direction in the affairs of the Institution, and to exercise such powers and duties as may be prescribed to them by the By-Laws, or by special reference of the Committee of Management.

ART. IV.—The President shall preside at the meetings of the Association, and of the Committee of Management. He shall watch over the interests of the Institution, and recommend such measures as he shall deem expedient. In his absence, the Chairman of the Executive Committee shall exercise the powers of the President.

ART. V.—The Treasurer shall receive the moneys of the Institution, and disburse the same as shall be directed by the Committee of Management and the Executive Committee. He shall keep regular books of account of all his receipts and payments for the different classes of expenditure. He shall report in writing to the Committee of Management at every stated meeting, the state of the treasury; and at the meeting of the committee to be held on the day of the annual meeting, he shall fully report in writing all moneys received and paid by him; and he shall read an abstract of that report at the annual meeting.

ART. VI.—The Corresponding Secretary shall carry on the correspondence of the Institution, and shall keep the same at the committee room, subject to the inspection of the members of the committee; and at every stated meeting of the Committee of Management, he shall report in writing a full abstract of all the letters written and received by him since the last stated meeting. He

shall pay over to the Treasurer weekly, and whenever required, all moneys that shall come into his hands, and shall deliver to him as soon as received all drafts payable to him.

ART. VII.—The Recording Secretary shall keep the records and files of the Association and of the Committee of Management—all which shall be kept at the committee room, and subject to the inspection of the members of the committee. He shall have the custody of the seal, and shall use the same only as directed by the Committee of Management.

ART. VIII.—All the officers, committees, secretaries and agents, of the Institution, shall perform all such duties as shall be prescribed to them by the By-Laws or directed by the Committee of Management; and all persons to be appointed or employed by said Institution, shall be appointed or employed, and shall hold their places, and shall be removable at the pleasure of the Committee of Management. The officers of the Association and the members of the Committee of Management, shall be re-eligible, but the Superintendent, Clerks, Collectors and Agents, of the Institution, shall not be eligible to the Committee of Management.

ART. IX.—The real and personal property of the Institution shall be under the care and subject to the disposal of the Committee of Management, for the benefit of the Institution; and on any dissolution of the Institution, after paying all its debts, the whole remaining property shall be distributed among the persons who shall be members at the time of such dissolution, in proportion to the amount theretofore paid by them respectively to the funds of the Institution.

ART. X.—The net funds of the Institution shall be applied *first*, to the purchase or production of fine Engravings, or other Works of American Art, annually, which shall be distributed equally to all the members for each year respectively. *Second*, to the purchase or production of Works of American Art (principally paintings), to be distributed publicly at the annual meeting among all the members for the year, by lot, each member having one share for every five dollars paid by him. By Works of American Art are meant the Works of Artists resident in the United States, or

American Artists abroad. The purchase, production, and time and mode of distribution of the Works of Art, shall be under the direction, regulation and control, of the Committee of Management, who shall cause the same, as the same shall be from time to time prescribed and modified, to be published for the information of the members and of the public generally.

ART. XI.—And whereas the Institution has incurred a considerable debt for building a new gallery and convenient rooms, and may incur a still larger one for the purchase of the property in fee, which can be paid for only by small annual appropriations, therefore the Institution shall be charged each year with a reasonable rent for such gallery and rooms, and all the net rents of the property of the Institution, together with five per cent. on the annual subscriptions, and all the interest on the funds of the Institution, and all the moneys received from the sale of catalogues, shall be inviolably applied to the payment of the property debt of the Institution, till the same shall be entirely paid off.

ART. XII.—The Committee of Management shall have power to suspend or expel any member of the committee for neglect or refusal to comply with the Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations of the Institution.

ART. XIII.—In case anything shall prevent the holding any meeting, the making any election, or the distribution of the Works of Art, at the time appointed for the purpose, the Committee of Management may appoint another time when the same shall take place; and in case of destruction by fire of the Works of Art before the distribution, the committee shall invest the money received for the insurance of the Works of Art in other Works of Art, to be distributed to the members entitled to participate in the distribution of the works destroyed.

ART. XIV.—This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the Committee of Management, provided notice thereof shall have been given at the last previous stated meeting of the Committee.